

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**DONALD LEE SAPP, JR.,** )  
                                )  
                                )  
**Petitioner,**              )  
                                )  
**v.**                         )      **1:11CV181**  
                                )  
**NORTH CAROLINA DEPT. OF**      )  
**CORRECTIONS DIVISION OF**     )  
**PRISONS,**                    )  
                                )  
**Respondent.** )

**ORDER AND RECOMMENDATION  
OF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Petitioner, a prisoner of the State of North Carolina, has submitted a petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 for writ of habeas corpus by a person in state custody, together with an application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. For the following reasons, the Petition cannot be further processed.

1. Petitioner indicates that he has not exhausted his state court remedies as required by 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b). (Docket No. 2, §§ 8, 10, 12(c), 12(d).) He states in Section 12(d) of the Petition that he is “now” seeking relief in post-conviction proceedings. It is unclear, but if he is referring to the present Petition, he is mistaken. This Court is not a state court and he must exhaust his state court remedies before coming to this Court. If he is referring to a filing he currently has pending in the state courts, his Petition in this Court is premature. As Petitioner has been informed previously, this Court CANNOT grant him habeas relief unless he has first exhausted his state court remedies.
2. Petitioner has not named his custodian as the respondent. Rule 2, Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, requires that the petition name the state officer having custody of the applicant as respondent. The Court takes judicial notice that a proper respondent for North Carolina state prisoners challenging their

North Carolina judgment of conviction is the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Correction. Naming the wrong custodian is a common point of confusion, and the Court assumes that Petitioner wishes to name the proper custodian as respondent. Accordingly, unless Petitioner objects within eleven days of the issuance of this Order, the petition is deemed from this point forward to be amended to name Alvin W. Keller, Jr., who is currently the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Correction, as respondent.

3. An insufficient number of copies was furnished. Petitioner must submit the original and two copies.

Because of these pleading failures, the Petition should be filed and then dismissed, without prejudice to Petitioner, once he has exhausted his state court remedies, filing a new petition on the proper habeas corpus forms with the \$5.00 filing fee, or a completed application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, and otherwise correcting the defects noted. The Court has no authority to toll the statute of limitation, therefore it continues to run, and Petitioner must act quickly if he wishes to pursue this petition. *See Spencer v. Sutton*, 239 F.3d 626 (4th Cir. 2001). To further aid Petitioner, the Clerk is instructed to send Petitioner a new application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, new § 2254 forms, and instructions for filing a § 2254 petition, which Petitioner should follow.

*In forma pauperis* status will be granted for the sole purpose of entering this Order and Recommendation.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that *in forma pauperis* status is granted for the sole purpose of entering this Order and Recommendation. The Clerk is instructed to send Petitioner § 2254 forms, instructions, and a current application to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** that this action be filed, but then dismissed *sua sponte* without prejudice to Petitioner filing a new petition which corrects the defects of the current petition after he has fully exhausted his state court remedies.

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/s/ L. Patrick Auld

**L. Patrick Auld**  
**United States Magistrate Judge**

March 8, 2011